



332nd ECES: Airmen work around the clock, provide mission critical power

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

When the power goes out and operations come to a halt, it doesn't take long before everything is back on track, thanks to the Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer



Photo by Senior Airman **Jason Robertson**

Airman First Class Adam Clark, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron electrical power production flight, tightens down bolts during a daily inspection Monday. The power production flight here performs daily inspections on generators in order to prevent mechanical failure and ensure power continues to flow.

Squadron's power production and electrical shops.

Captain Kevin Cramer, 332nd ECES chief of operations, said that these shops are operating on 24-hour schedules to keep up with power demands.

"Our guys are working very hard to ensure people have the utilities they need for day-to-day operations," he said.

The summer months can be brutal for an electrical system that was never subject to codes or standards, said Tech. Sgt. John Kagarise, 332nd ECES electrical shop noncommissioned officer in charge. He explained that high temperatures have overloaded many circuits.

Along with the long hours, electrical shop workers face many safety issues when trying to restore power.

"There were no set safety practices for this equipment when the U.S. began operations at Balad," said Sergeant Kagarise, "but we're making the necessary changes to fix that for this rotation and upcoming rotations."

Another group dealing with summer power problems is the power production shop. With more than 150 generators spread across base, regular maintenance and repairs take up a good deal of their workday.

"Ninety-five to 98 percent of the time, we're out in the field doing maintenance," said Master Sgt. William Rumbaugh, 332nd ECES electrical power production noncommissioned officer in charge. "It's important to make sure power is provided to

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Protecting assets



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Monster garage



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Ali Base works with locals



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Photos by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

(Above) Airman First Class Jessica Hendrickson, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, accesses pages on a Voice Control Access Unit for internal and external communication. (Left) Staff Sgt. Antoine Jackson, 727th EACS, positions a satellite antenna.



Airmen control Iraqi skies

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Airmen from the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron here have their eyes on the sky, watching over all the aircraft flying in and out of Iraq.

The 727th EACS is one of five tactical command and control agencies in the Air Force. The squadron is made up of more than 27 individual Air Force specialty codes.

"We are a self-sustaining unit," said Capt. Jayson Murgoitio, 727th EACS mission crew commander. "We have oper-

ators who perform radar surveillance, controllers who guide aircraft, and maintainers who keep us up and running 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Members of the 727th EACS have a unique mission in Iraq. They must perform a balancing act with a variety of aircraft.

"Even though we are in a war zone with high-speed fighters, there are still civilian aircraft taking off and landing at Baghdad International Airport," said Captain Murgoitio. "We are always balancing priorities to keep the mission going."

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Only you can prevent



By Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

There are millions of rocks and pebbles spread out all over Balad – they are everywhere, and just one can cause millions of dollars worth of damage or ruin an aircraft.

“A small piece of foreign object debris can damage an F-16 engine beyond repair,” said Lt. Col. Robert Roningen, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. “Each engine is about \$3.5 million, in addition to the lost time and hours it takes to repair or replace the engine.

“If the FOD incident happens during take off, the aircraft could experience catastrophic engine failure which has a lot of implications, especially in a war zone.”

Foreign objects can be very destructive if they make it to

the flight line, but there is a simple solution that can drastically cut down these risks: FOD checks.

“FOD checks are extremely important,” said the colonel. “They are the first line of defense in mitigating FOD issues. It is a basic maintenance practice that has to be followed by everyone who enters the flight line environment.” FOD checks don’t have to take long but they should be thorough.

“Please take your time and do a complete FOD check by removing all foreign objects from your vehicle,” said Colonel Roningen. “That includes a roll over check of the tires, any dirt or gravel on the undercarriage and frame of the vehicle, and any trash or unneeded equipment in your vehicle.”



Photo by Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**

Every vehicle going on the flight line should be checked for foreign object debris. One pebble or rock can cause millions of dollars worth of damage to aircraft.



Photo by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

An insider's look

Staff Sgt. Kirt Decremer, Detachment 2632, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group gun truck fire team leader, right, shows Maj. Gen. (select) Al Peck, Deputy Combined Forces Air Component Commander, the communications equipment in a Humvee during General Peck's visit to Balad.

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mission critical sites.”

Airmen living at Balad also have a responsibility to monitor their own power use, said Captain Cramer.

“Power is a finite resource,” he said. “While it’s nice to have quality of life items while deployed, it is also important that Airmen realize that many of these items require a substantial amount of power.”

That doesn’t mean Airmen have to give up everything, he added.

“Conservation is the key,” he said. “Airmen need to remember what kind of environment they’re in. They need to be smart about how they use the power provided to them.”

According to Captain Cramer, a lack of power is very detrimental to the mission of every unit at Balad, but the crews from power production and electrical shops will not falter under harsh conditions.

“It may take a while, but we’ll always have you up and running again.”

Airmen from the add-on-armor shop have a huge responsibility, but for them it's just part of ...

the daily grind



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

Staff Sgt. Ruben Bonafe, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group vehicle maintainer, cuts off old cab mounts of an M9-39 truck Tuesday. Technicians are responsible for adding upgraded armor to vehicles.

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

OPERATING IN A LIFE-sized sandbox, vehicles resembling Tonka trucks provide transportation to servicemembers running convoy missions outside the wire in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While these monsters of the road may look menacing, it wasn't always this way. In many cases their complete transformation can be traced back to a group of

Airmen who make up the 732nd Mission Support Group add-on-armor shop at Balad Air Base.

According to Senior Master Sergeant James Turner, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group noncommissioned officer in charge, members of the AOA shop receive Army 5-ton vehicles, strip off the entire body and replace it with armor kits, which offer better protection than the armor that many were rolling out with not too long ago.

A normal switch out of armor should take up to 100 man hours, explained Sergeant Turner, but with a new system the shop gets the work done in around 72 man hours.

"Our goal is to roll a truck in here first thing in the morning, get it stripped, start the up-armor process and have the vehicle ready to roll out the next morning."

As the trucks move from one station to the next, teams of three complete specific tasks, whether it be tear down,

Photos by Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**

(Above and right)
Airman 1st Class
Joshua Gates, 732nd
Expeditionary Mission
Support Group vehicle
maintainer, grinds
down a piece of metal
on an M9-39 truck to
prepare the truck for
up armoring Tuesday.



cab installation or quality checks.

"I couldn't ask for a better crew," said Sergeant Turner. "These guys hit the ground running and haven't stopped since."

The teams, made up of active-duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen, say it took a while to get adjusted, but now they have the system down.

"It's like putting together a puzzle," said Senior Airman Dermedrix White, a vehicle maintainer from Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

According to Tech. Sgt. Chad Pinkerton, a vehicle maintainer from Malmstrom AFB, Mont., nothing could prepare him for the job he was sent to do.

"In my 15 years in the Air Force, it the hardest job I've ever had," he said. "It's also the most important job I've ever had. When you see a 5-ton in the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office lot all busted up and know that something you're doing makes it possible for the operators to come out of a wreck like that alive, it's very rewarding."

"It's like putting together a puzzle."

- Senior Airman Dermedrix White
732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group



(Above) Airman 1st Class Joshua Paden, left, installs armor floor plating, while Staff Sgt. Russell Stephens prepares to install a rear cab seal Tuesday. Airman Paden and Sergeant Stephens are both vehicle maintainers assigned to the 732nd Mission Support Group add-on-armor shop here.



The 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group add-on-armor shop, which is made up of active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen, can up armor a large truck in about 72 man hours.

OPERATION KALEIDOSCOPE

SF patrolmen work with locals to establish early warning network

By Tech. Sgt. **Melissa Phillips**
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, IRAQ – Instead of solely relying on patrolmen and sensors to analyze the ever-evolving installation defense puzzle, security forces specialists here are employing the help of a previously under used weapon system – word of mouth.

The fire patrol teams responsible for securing the installation's perimeter are enlisting a more hands-on approach through a new program dubbed Operation Kaleidoscope.

"Base defense doesn't stop at the fence line. There is a whole other biosphere out there," said Maj. Erik Rundquist,

407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander.

Major Rundquist was looking for a way to use the locals' instincts to protect their families from insurgents, when Sam, a Lebanese-American interpreter, assigned to Balad Air Base, Iraq, was reassigned to the 407th ESFS.

With Sam on board, the patrol teams went out into the community to meet the locals. The operation provides both the locals and the patrolmen face-to-face recognition and a phone number to call if either notices anything out of the ordinary or dangerous.

The 407th ESFS fire patrol teams, who go out in small, heavily-armed groups to

patrol the installation's border, had already previously mapped out the 340-square kilometers surrounding Ali Base, Camp Adder and Camp Cedar II (Army posts surrounding the Air Force base), and the Italian compound.

They already knew the land surrounding them. But until April, the patrolmen didn't know the people.

Getting personal

Sam takes snapshots of the area in case the patrolmen need to re-contact the individuals living there.

"The vast majority of the people I meet are very happy to have been liberated by us," said Sam.

"Under Saddam's reign he treated people badly – cut off their water supply, knocked down palm trees and turned a once lush marshland into arid desert."

A higher purpose

"It tears me up when I come across some of the people," said Sam. "This one woman lives all alone with her three children. Both her husband and son were killed at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"She lives on about \$22 a month. When she broke down and told me her story, it broke my heart."

For Sam and the others, visiting some of the locals opens an avenue to help others. After meeting the locals, they relay information to Army civil affairs, who work to rebuild the area with schools and hospitals.

But the biggest reward for the crew is transporting little everyday necessities like baby wipes, diapers and candy to the locals.

"I feel like I'm accomplishing something when I meet the (local) people - like



Photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

Staff Sgt. James Partin, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron patrol team member, talks to local children during an Operation Kaleidoscope mission recently. The program adds an extra layer of protection to perimeter defense procedures and gives locals a point of contact to call if they see suspicious activity.

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I've donated my time to others," said Senior Airman Erin Lannaman, 407th ESFS patrol team member.

Full circle

War has sucked the area dry, but through another 407th ESFS program called Operation Reach Out, Airmen here get to distribute clothes and shoes to locals frequently. Now base leadership is better informed on where critical resources are needed in the community.

"There are so many different facets to consider," said Major Rundquist. "Operation Kaleidoscope brings all the information into a center focal point kind of like a kaleidoscope itself, hence the name."

Getting down to the basics

Although the operation provides plenty of inspiration and breaks the boredom of long days restricted to base, it's no picnic either.

The heavily armed crews dressed in full body armor convoy out into the blistering desert in armored Humvees, which are designed for safety rather than comfort.

Sitting ramrod-straight in their seats, the engine blasts out what feels like 160 degrees slamming into the occupants' face.

“ Base defense doesn't stop at the fence line. There is a whole other biosphere out there. ”

- Maj. Erik Rundquist
407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander

Then there is the eerie, relentless noise of the engine that sounds like a banshee screaming in the wind anytime the driver accelerates.

However, patrolmen don't normally have the luxury of traveling at higher speeds. Most of their day is spent plodding through ditches and ravines that violently jostle the occupants.

This is their office for six to 12-hour days – no coffee makers or microwaves included. But for most patrolmen, it's just another day on the job collecting and analyzing data that could save their and other servicemembers' lives.

Regardless of the risk, most of the patrolmen wouldn't trade the experience for a less dangerous job.

Making history

According to Senior Airman Chris Brown, 407th ESFS fire team gunner, his unit is making history as the first Ali Base SFS unit to work with locals in order to protect the perimeter and

servicemembers stationed here.

Although Major Rundquist jokingly says Operation Kaleidoscope sounds like a security defense science project gone awry, he says he wants the locals 'outside the wire' to understand we are all on the same team.

Major Rundquist points out patrolling the area surrounding the base is nothing new in the security forces realm of protection operations.

"They have had patrols out there for the last year and a half driving by these people and looking at them as part of the environment. I see them as part of the defense solution," Major Rundquist said.

Battling the unknown

As the commander charged with the perimeter security of the U.S. servicemembers and Coalition forces assigned to the installation, Major Rundquist knows the biggest threat is the unknown outside the gate.

"This is their land and it's constantly evolving, and that impacts the way my people operate.

"Operation Kaleidoscope provides the group commander with a clear tactical picture of who lives and travels through this area, and who is suspicious or dangerous. Overall, it's a safer base because of the program," Major Rundquist said.

Troop call

There is a mandatory 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing troop call 5 p.m. Tuesday at Town Hall. For more information, contact the 332nd AEW protocol office at 443-6013.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional

Sundays
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel
Protestant - Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th SPT BN

Wednesdays
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

Latter Day Saints

Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel,

11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for

Special Ops personnel only)

Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Staff Sgt. Jaime Albarran

Home station: Langley Air Force Base, Va.
Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron weather flight

Hobbies: Lifting weights and reading

How do you contribute to the mission?

I monitor weather conditions for the base, ensuring safe flight operations.

What is your favorite aspect of deployment?

The camaraderie among the troops.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home?

I miss real Mexican food.

Know what this is?

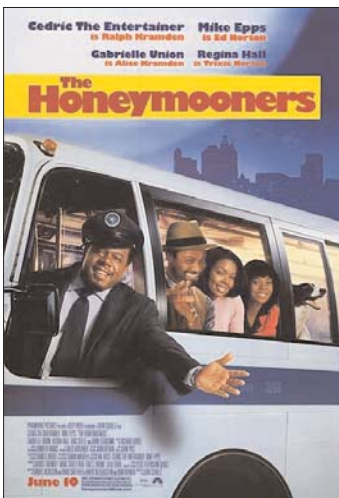


Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. There was no winner in last week's contest. Last week's photo was the bottom of an optical mouse.

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today

3 p.m. - The Honeymooners
 6 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith
 9 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith

Saturday, June 25

3 p.m. - Sahara
 6 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith
 9 p.m. - The Honeymooners

Sunday, June 26

3 p.m. - King's Ransom
 6 p.m. - The Honeymooners
 9 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith

Monday, June 27

3 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith

6 p.m. - The Honeymooners
 9 p.m. - Sahara

Tuesday, June 28

3 p.m. - The Honeymooners
 6 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith
 9 p.m. - King's Ransom

Wednesday, June 29

3 p.m. - Ice Princess
 6 p.m. - Sahara
 9 p.m. - The Honeymooners

Thursday, June 30

3 p.m. - King's Ransom
 6 p.m. - The Honeymooners
 9 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith

